



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

Lennis Hodgson, Area Director, Kearney, Nebraska (308) 237-3118
Daryl Jorgensen, Chief, North Loup, Nebraska (308) 496-3331

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS LOCAL FIRE DISTRICT TO OBTAIN ADVANCED EMERGENCY AND PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

North Loup, Neb., Oct. 28, 2004—North Loup Rural Fire Protection District will be able to offer greater fire protection and search and rescue measures to the 725 rural residents it serves thanks to USDA Rural Development grant assistance of \$13,500. The funding that will assist in the purchase of a grass fire truck and thermal imaging camera was celebrated today in North Loup as symbolic checks were presented by USDA Rural Development to the District.

“We have never had this type of truck or camera available for use, and we are very appreciative to USDA Rural Development for their dollars that helped us obtain the equipment,” stated Daryl Jorgensen, chief of the North Loup Rural Fire Protection District.

The District will contribute \$18,900 to join the \$10,100 USDA grant to acquire a grass fire truck consisting of the truck, skid unit and necessary pumps. The additional \$3,400 USDA grant will be leveraged with \$3,849 from the District and \$2,500 in Wozab trust funds to purchase a thermal imaging camera.

“Because of the truck, we will have quicker response times and better fire fighting capabilities for grass fires. The camera will reduce search and rescue times by 80 to 85 percent. Also, Fire and Rescue personnel will have the capability to search for accident victims at night, locate hot spots in walls of structure fires and spot down hot wires,” stated Jorgensen.

The District serves the Village of North Loup as well as the citizens in the North Loup Rural Fire Department’s 98 square mile area which encompasses Davis Creek, Enterprise, and Independent.

“USDA Rural Development is pleased to help bring the advanced protection that is gained from the truck and camera,” stated Lennis Hodgson, area director for USDA Rural Development. “The new equipment is a vital asset to the communities served by the North Loup Rural Fire Protection District.”

USDA Rural Development community facility grant program provided the USDA monies. For additional information contact Lennis Hodgson, lennis.hodgson@ne.usda.gov, 4009 North 6th Ave. Kearney, Neb. 68848 or phone (308) 237-3118, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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